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September 26, 1995

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PANTHER BATTALION TO PARTICIPATE IN FIELD TRAINING EXERCISES

CHARLESTON -- Some 130 cadets and staff from Eastern Illinois University's Army ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) Panther Battalion will practice what they've learned in the classroom in field training exercises at Hood's Farm in Ashmore and Fox Ridge State Park south of Charleston.

Field training exercises are held every semester and give cadets hands-on training to complement what they've learned in laboratories and in classes. "It's an excellent way to build cadets' confidence and technical competence in military training and style. Senior ROTC members plan the training so they learn a lot too," said senior marketing major Curt Kuetemeyer of Villa Grove, Panther Battalion public information officer.

The exercises, led by Panther Battalion Commander Lt. Col. David Sims, will begin at 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 29 when the Panther Battalion cadets will depart campus via Army transport vehicles to Hood's Farm in Ashmore.

The cadets will begin their exercises Friday at Hood's Farm with land navigation drills, combatives and establishing a

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ROTC

bivouac site.

Saturday's exercises include a rope river crossing, a grenade assault course, poncho raft/water crossing training and team confidence exercises at the Fox Ridge Confidence Course.

After a 4.3 mile road march on Sunday morning, the cadets will return to Eastern for an awards ceremony and cookout.

Eastern's Army ROTC battalion was recognized as one of the best programs within the U.S. Army Second ROTC Region in 1994. The Panther Battalion received the Region Resource and Cadet Management Excellence and Program Management Excellence Awards. The second region is comprised of more than 100 ROTC programs in the Midwest.

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*The media is invited to Hood's Farm and the Fox Ridge State Park to shoot video and conduct interviews. Directions to Hood's Farm are: From the EIU campus, go approximately 7 miles east on Route 16 to 2220E. Turn left at 2220E (heading north) and go approximately 4 1/2 miles until you reach Hood's Farm. For more information, call Curt Kuetemeyer at 581-8021.